



# City of Alexandria

## Transportation Commission

### Regular Meeting

May 21, 2014

7:00 p.m.

City Council Work Room

### MINUTES

**Commissioners Present:** Kerry Donley, Jerry King, James Lewis, Nathan Macek, Monica Starnes, Councilman Tim Lovain, Maria Wasowski

**Staff Present:** Karen Callaham – T&ES, Sandra Marks – T&ES, Hillary Poole - T&ES, Steve Sindiong - T&ES, Mark Jinks – CMO, Carrie Beach - P&Z, Jeff Farner – P&Z, Raymond Mui – DASH

Chair Nathan Macek called the Transportation Commission meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

#### **1. March and April 2014 Meeting Minutes**

Chair Nathan Macek asked for changes or edits to the March and April minutes. Chair Macek was reminded of the edits he offered that the April 2, 2014 minutes should reflect that the Commissioners present were in support of the DASH Comprehensive Operations Analysis (COA) and specifically the circulator and cross town routes. He also offered minor grammatical edits to the April 2 minutes. There being no further edits, Commissioner Kerry Donley made a motion to approve the minutes and Commissioner Jerry King seconded the motion. There being no objections, the motion to approve the minutes was voted on and unanimously approved.

#### **2. Updates To Receive (Consent Items)**

The Commission received updates on the Funding Update, Potomac Yard Metrorail Station, Route 1 Transitway, Capital Bikeshare, Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan Update, and Pedestrian Improvements to Transit Stops. Staff Sandra Marks informed the group that the digital and physical model of the Potomac Yard Metrorail Station would be on display in the Vola Lawson Lobby in City Hall until the first week in June 2014. Each week during the display will feature one of the alternatives. Commissioner Wasowski thanked staff for the Potomac Yard Transitway informational signage at the project on Jefferson Davis Highway. She also inquired as to next steps for the Potomac Yard Transitway and was told landscaping and concrete pouring for platforms is ongoing, structural steel will be arriving soon for the shelters and test runs will begin in August with startup expected in September. There were no additional requests from Commissioners to discuss any other staff updates. The Commission accepted the updates.

### **3. Commission Updates**

Commissioner Kerry Donley reported the Parking Standards for New Development Projects Task Force had its second meeting. He indicated that staff presented data collection results and shared some initial findings, recommendations and local and nationwide best practices with the group. Chair Macek inquired of Commissioner Donley if DASH was procuring a new trolley. Commissioner Donley indicated DASH in fact was procuring a new trolley in substitution for a bus that was slated for replacement. Commissioner Starnes offered the Environmental Policy Commission discussed the work of the City's greenhouse gas emissions policy at their last meeting. Commissioner Wasowski stated there will be an Open House on May 22 at Landmark Community Center on the West End Transitway. James Lewis, the new Traffic & Parking Board representative on the Transportation Commission introduced and qualified himself. Chair Macek recited the list of Transportation Commission representatives on other boards, commission and committees whose focus is of interest to the Transportation Commission. Kevin Posey is the designee on the Ad Hoc Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan Advisory Committee, and Maria Wasowski on the Eisenhower West Steering Committee. The Transportation Commission citizen (west of Quaker Lane) appointee will be the Commission's representative for the West End Transitway Advisory Group. Chair Macek indicated that the DASH Board representative has been jointly represented by Kerry Donley however, a primary appointee is needed. He also stated a couple of at-large people were needed to represent the Transportation Commission.

### **4. Lower King Street Multimodal Feasibility Study**

T&ES Steve Sindiong introduced Tina Fink, of Toole Design Group, and Lauren Kauffman of Toole Design Group. Toole Design Group was selected as the consultant for the Lower King Street Multimodal Feasibility Study. As part of the Waterfront Commission recommendations on the Union Street Corridor Study, the Commission requested that staff study a street closure along Union Street between Cameron Street and Prince Street, and in the unit and 100 blocks of King Street, including limited vehicular access, and improved pedestrian access. Civic outreach has included the business community, resident stakeholder groups, Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC), the Transportation Commission, and Waterfront Commission to date. Future updates will also be given to the Planning Commission, and Traffic and Parking Board. Based on input from stakeholders, the project consultant, in coordination with the project management team, has developed three functional alternatives including an open street with wider sidewalks, a pedestrian only street, and a pedestrian street that still allows for trolleys. Toole Design Group presented an overview of the alternatives and initial analysis. The Commission made a number of suggestions, including the need to direct cars where to park, the potential for flexible / seasonal closures, and concern about the impact to on-street parking. The alternatives will be presented at a public meeting on May 29, 2014 (6:30 – 8:30 p.m.) in City Hall, Sister Cities room to receive public input on the alternatives.

### **5. Parking Ratio Study**

T&ES staff Sandra Marks, updated the Transportation Commission on the purpose of the study which is to evaluate existing City parking standards in light of current demand and to propose revised parking standards for new development. The study will be conducted in two phases with Phase I, being the residential development study which is already underway. An evaluation of the parking standards for new retail, commercial, and office development will be part of Phase II. The study includes conducting an existing parking occupancy survey to determine peak residential parking utilization at 17 residential developments selected based on their proximity to a Metrorail station, its walk score, transit accessibility, availability of on-street parking, and car

ownership, etc. In addition, as a part of the data collection, staff researched national and regional best practices, looking at local and national parking trends and policies. The data collection was completed in December 2013. In January 2014, Council established an Advisory Task Force to assist and support City staff in communicating the efforts, outcomes, and directives of the citywide parking study by reporting back to the commissions, boards, and groups that they represent. The primary role of the Task Force is to provide input to City staff on revisions to the City's parking standards for new development projects and develop consensus on recommendations for parking standards for new development projects.

**6. West End Transitway (Corridor C) Alternatives Analysis / Environmental Assessment**

T&ES staff Lee Farmer gave an update on the West End Transitway Alternatives Analysis/Environmental Assessment (AA/EA) and asked the Commission to appoint a member of the Transportation Commission to serve on the West End Transitway AA/EA Policy Advisory Group (PAG). In 2010, the City began the Transitway Corridors Feasibility Study. As part of the study, a High Capacity Transit Corridor Work Group (CWG) was formed to provide input on issues such as route alignment, cross-sections, method of operation, vehicle type, land use, ridership, and financial implications for all three corridors. Alternative D, Bus Rapid Transit in dedicated lanes between the Pentagon and Van Dorn Metrorail station is the preferred alternative for phased implementation of transit in dedicated lanes in Corridor C (West End Transitway) until such time as Alternative G (Streetcar in dedicated lanes between the Pentagon and Van Dorn Metrorail station, via Columbia Pike) becomes feasible and can be implemented. Council adopted the recommendation of the CWG, adding that the project consider how to optimize the alignment to better serve the Northern Virginia Community College (NVCC). The three alternatives that the AA/EA will evaluate include a no build alternative (that includes the existing and planned transportation network); a Transportation Systems Management (TSM) alternative that includes system improvements such as transit-signal priority, but stops short of a major capital investment such as dedicated lanes; and a build alternative including dedicated transit lanes along most of the corridor between the Van Dorn Metrorail Station and the Pentagon.

**7. 2014 Update to the Transportation Long Range Plan (LRP)**

T&ES staff Sandra Marks informed the Commissioners that the Transportation Commission annually updates the transportation list of long range plans, programs and studies from plans adopted since the last update and additional projects not captured in the previous LRP. She explained the process of prioritization and how the LRP is an unconstrained list of transportation projects, programs and studies and the Project Matrix is a constrained list for which full or partial funding has been identified. Projects will only appear on one list. This year, new projects include three proposed circulator routes based on recommendations in the DASH Comprehensive Operations Analysis; a new bridge over Sanger Avenue at I-495 to better accommodate future Bus Rapid Transit and non-motorized users; and a new Holmes Run Trail Bridge. Staff is also recommending removal of the "Programs" list since most of these projects can be implemented through the City's Complete Streets Program. The Commission recommended that staff prepare maps for each project to better identify where they are located, and that project number 8 on the Programs list (Redesign of Mt. Vernon at Four Mile Run) be added to the Project list.

**8. Other Business**

Chair Macek noted that he would like a future discussion on the structure of the Transportation Commission, including the potential to add more At large positions in the long term to allow for more people to serve on the various committees.

There being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 9:35.